



# Region 6 Healthcare Preparedness Newsletter

December 2007

Volume 2, Number 10

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## ***Residents and Businesses Can Report Damages Online***

*December 2007 King County News Release*

### **Safety is key as cleanup continues around King County**

The King County Office of Emergency Management is requesting that residents and businesses of geographic King County who suffered wind and/or flood-related losses to their primary home or business from the morning of December 2nd onward report their damages and estimated personal property losses.

Residents and businesses of King County can now report all damage and loss estimates online at [www.kingcounty.gov/prepare](http://www.kingcounty.gov/prepare), or by calling 1-800-523-5044. The online reporting forms are available 24 hours a day until further notice.

The damage hotline will be open from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. weekdays until further notice. Due to high call volumes, there may be delays in answering your call to the toll-free hotline listed. Please continue to call or use the online form. Thank you for your patience.

This information is being collected in order to assist the Washington State Emergency Management Division in requesting federal assistance because of this disaster. It may be several weeks before a determination is made by officials as to what disaster relief programs may be available. This reporting of damages is not a guarantee that residents will receive assistance of any kind. Should a federal declaration be announced for this weather event, additional information will be provided on how property owners are to file claims with FEMA.

To view more Emergency Preparedness news from King County visit:  
[http://www.metrokc.gov/news/topics/emergency\\_rss.aspx](http://www.metrokc.gov/news/topics/emergency_rss.aspx)

## ***Public Health - Seattle & King County and the King County Healthcare Coalition release a Request for Proposal (RFP)***

The King County Healthcare Coalition and Public Health - Seattle & King County recently received the ASPR grant award from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. With this newest Partnership Grant, Public Health – Seattle & King County and the King County Healthcare Coalition are seeking to fund non-hospital healthcare

agencies serving King County to develop and enhance their resiliency in an emergency. There are two different RFP's that the Coalition is currently advertising. The awards are available to fund efforts that assist the following non-hospital treatment sectors in King County: mental health, substance abuse, long-term care (nursing homes, boarding homes, adult family homes, home health and home care), pediatric care, ambulatory care, palliative care and other specialty services (e.g. dialysis providers, blood centers, poison center, surgical centers, etc). The goal of the funding is to support healthcare organizations' ability to maintain service delivery during an emergency event.

The award amounts range up to \$24,000. Please see the King County Healthcare Coalition website for more details.

[\(http://www.metrokc.gov/HEALTH/hccoalition/\)](http://www.metrokc.gov/HEALTH/hccoalition/)



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## ***Flu Pandemic Would Cost Hospitals Billions***

*December 11, 2007 HS Today*

A flu pandemic like the one in 1918 could cost U.S. hospitals \$3.9 billion, but a human-to-human outbreak of the H5N1 avian influenza strain could dwarf that estimate.

The lost revenue to hospitals from a 1918-style pandemic would come from deferred elective cases and uncompensated care for flu victims, found Eric Toner, MD, and colleagues at the Center for Biosecurity of the University of Pittsburgh, in Baltimore.

To view the full article visit:

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/InfectiousDisease/URItheFlu/tb/7576>



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## ***FEMA Releases Alert on 2007-2008 NIMS Compliance & Document on Medical and Public Health Criteria for the National Emergency Response Credentialing System***

*December 7, 2007 IAEM News*



The intent of the latest NIMS Alert released by the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is to inform states, territories, tribal nations, and local government with regard to FY 2007 National Incident Management System (NIMS) compliance and the pending release of FY 2008 NIMS compliance materials. FEMA also released a document describing baseline & additional medical & public health criteria for the National Emergency Response Credentialing System. The Public Health/Medical Working Group determined the job titles listed herein to be the most commonly requested public health & medical personnel in a state-to-state mutual aid-based response.

To Download the NIMS Alert go to:

<http://www.iaem.com/publications/news/documents/nimsalert120707.pdf>

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## ***Breaking News for Citizens in King, Pierce and Snohomish Counties***

*Regional Public Information Network News*

### **Be in touch. Stay in touch.**

The Regional Public Information Network is your one-stop resource for news alerts from more than 75 government, transportation, utility, health and emergency response agencies serving citizens in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties. RPIN keeps the public informed about street and highway closures, weather, major transit disruptions, and provides updates on what agencies are doing to respond to emergencies and incidents. The public also can sign up to receive e-mail alerts and pager headlines from RPIN partners and get helpful tips to prepare for emergencies.

[www.rpin.org](http://www.rpin.org)

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### **Get Advance Warning. Subscribe to RPIN.**

Get the latest information and alerts as soon as news breaks.

[Sign up today!](#)

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## ***Virtual Emergency Operations Centers (VEOCS)***

*By Steve Davis - December 5, 2007 All Hands Community*

Emergency management processes normally take place in an Emergency Operations Center. Sometimes team members will be unable to get to the EOC or the EOC can be compromised by the emergency. A virtual EOC can greatly benefit the communication and coordination that needs to take place in support of response and recovery activities.

Definition: A Virtual Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) is an EOC that exists solely or partially in cyberspace. A VEOC provides an electronic EOC via a computer network or the Internet. It can consist of anywhere from one workstation to thousands of networked computers dispersed throughout the enterprise and around the globe. Modern VEOCs utilize the latest Internet technology as well as Virtual Private Networks, and satellite communications.

"Virtual EOC" is a concept wherein command center participants can share information, make decisions, and deploy resources without the requirement to be physically present in the command center.

A Virtual EOC can be a core concept of operations or an adjunct to a traditional EOC. A Virtual EOC can allow participants to work from their normal workstation, from home, or from the field with data, information and plans available from any location.

To view the full article please visit:

[http://www.all-hands.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=2117&Itemid=105](http://www.all-hands.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2117&Itemid=105)



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## ***HHS Releases Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Tool-Kit***

*By Michelle Cantu, December 12, 2007 Center for Biosecurity*



On December 1, 2007, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released an online "tool-kit" titled, Take the Lead: Working Together to Prepare Now, on its pandemic planning website. The tool-kit is a collaborative effort between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and HHS, with input from community leaders.

The Take the Lead kits are intended for leaders of healthcare organizations, businesses, and community and faith-based organizations. The kits offer fact sheets about pandemic influenza, sample materials that can be customized, a resource list, checklists, and ideas for encouraging preparation among community members, employees, or constituents. The toolkit introduction notes that leaders "can play a powerful role in encouraging...employees, patients, and members and others...to prepare by providing information and guidance and by preparing yourself."

To view the full article visit: [http://www.upmc-biosecurity.org/website/biosecurity\\_briefing/archive/avian\\_pandemic\\_flu/content/2007/2007-12-07-hhsreleasespanfluprepretoolkit.html](http://www.upmc-biosecurity.org/website/biosecurity_briefing/archive/avian_pandemic_flu/content/2007/2007-12-07-hhsreleasespanfluprepretoolkit.html)

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## ***Nurses on the Front Line- A New Resource***

*Nurses on the Front Line* is a highly-interactive, web-based course that provides emergency preparedness training for nurses working in a wide variety of settings.

With more than 2.5 million nurses nationwide, nurses comprise the largest percentage of the healthcare workforce and are one of the groups of professionals called upon to care for victims of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) events. Yet despite the fact that nurses are one of America's key lines of defense against threats to the health of its citizens, very few nurses have been trained how to handle these kinds of events.

Recognizing the critical role that nurses play in our nation's homeland security efforts, the Department of Homeland Security Office of Domestic Preparedness awarded The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences a \$2 million grant to develop the National Nurse Emergency Preparedness Initiative (NNEPI).



The website can be found at: <http://www.nnepi.org/>

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## ***Winter Storm Preparedness: Weather Radios and Disaster Supply Kits***

*November 27, 2007 – FEMA*

With winter rapidly approaching, every family should be prepared to face another season of destructive cold, storms and flooding. Every home should have a Disaster Supply Kit that includes a weather radio. The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) urge all residents to act now to assemble their family's emergency supplies before the start of the winter storm season.



The National Weather Service forecasters provide routine weather programming at all times. During life-threatening weather conditions, the radios send out a special alarm tone.

This is critical, because weather can turn deadly very fast. Ice Storms and flash flooding are two examples which can occur when people are sleeping or unaware of the forecast. Both can be deadly if people do not have an emergency plan or enough warning so that they can get to a safe place.

*A Disaster Supply Kit should contain the following:*

- Water - at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 to 7 days
- Food - at least enough for 3 to 7 days  
Non-perishable packaged or canned food / juices, foods for infants & elderly, snack foods, non-electric can opener, cooking utensils / fuel, paper plates, plastic utensils
- Blankets / Pillows, etc.
- Clothing - seasonal, rain gear, sturdy shoes
- Medical supplies - first aid kit, medicines, prescription drugs
- Special Items - for infants and the elderly
- Toiletries - hygiene items
- Flashlight - extra batteries
- Radio - battery-operated and NOAA weather radio
- Cash - (Banks and ATMs may not be open or available for extended periods.)
- Important documents - in a waterproof container  
Insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, social security card, etc
- Keys
- Toys, books and games
- Tools - keep a set with you during the storm
- Vehicle fuel tanks filled
- Pet care items -Proper identification, immunization records, ample supply of food and water, a carrier or cage, medications, muzzle & leash.

For Full Article please visit:

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=41771>





## Upcoming Meetings

- Legal Workgroup Meeting  
January 2, 2008  
2:00 – 4:00 pm
- MCI Train the Trainer  
Exercise (EMS)  
January 7, 8, 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
4 Four Hour Sessions
- Mass Fatalities TableTop  
Exercise  
January 10, 2008  
11:30 – 4:30 pm
- KCHHealthTrac Train the  
Trainer  
Jan. 15 & 16, 2008  
8:00 am – 12:00 pm  
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- Region 6 Hospital  
Emergency Preparedness  
Committee  
January 24, 2008  
7:30 – 10:00 am
- RMRC Satellite Phone Drill  
All Hospitals  
February 1, 2008  
8:00 – 10:00 am

## King County Healthcare Coalition

The King County Healthcare Coalition is a network of healthcare organizations and providers that are committed to strengthening the Healthcare System for emergencies. The following workgroups currently meet as part of the King County Healthcare Coalition to address preparedness issues in the healthcare community.

| Committee/Workgroup                       | Staff   |
|---|---|
| Coalition Development                     | Cynthia Dold, (206) 263-8715<br>Cynthia.dold@kingcounty.gov           |
| Coalition Administrative Staff            | Que Mathis, (206) 263-8713<br>Que.Mathis@kingcounty.gov               |
| Grant & Contracts Coordinator             | Lydia Ortega, (206) 263-8721<br>Lydia.Ortega@kingcounty.gov           |
| Alternate Care Facilities                 | Tony Cebollero, (206) 263-8718<br>Anthony.Cebollero@kingcounty.gov    |
| Critical Care Planning                    | Lewis Robinson, MD, (206) 263-8716<br>robinson@u.washington.edu       |
| Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee | Danica Mann, (206) 947-5565<br>Danica.mann@overlakehospital.org       |
| Infectious Disease Workgroup              | Jeff Duchin, MD, (206) 263-8171<br>Jeff.duchin@kingcounty.gov         |
| Legal Workgroup                           | Amy Eiden, (206) 296-901<br>amy.eiden@kingcounty.gov                  |
| Long Term Care & Home Health Planning     | Carlos Dominguez, (206) 263-8710<br>Carlos.Dominguez@kingcounty.org   |
| Medical Director's Committee              | Jeff Duchin, MD, (206) 263-8171<br>Jeff.duchin@kingcounty.gov         |
| Mental Health Planning                    | Michelle McDaniel, (206) 263-8712<br>Michelle.McDaniel@kingcounty.gov |
| MOU Development                           | Aimee Welch, (206) 263-8719<br>aimee.welch@kingcounty.gov             |
| Puget Sound Call Center Coordination      | Joe Cropley, 206-517-2383<br>cropley@wapc.org                         |
| Regional Medical Resource Center          | Allison Schletzbaum, 206-744-6213<br>aschletz@u.washington.edu        |

**To view the Healthcare Coalition Meeting Calendar please go to:**

<http://www.metrokc.gov/HEALTH/hccoalition/2007-calendar.pdf>

## Coalition Workgroup & Committee Updates

Outlined below are current updates for some of the King County Healthcare Coalition committees and workgroups. Please consult the Healthcare Coalition website for additional information.

### Ambulatory Care Workgroup

- Aimee Welch is working on the Isolated Clinics Prioritization Project and is currently mapping geographically isolated clinics and identifying areas of potential organizational collaboration.



KING COUNTY  
**Healthcare  
Coalition**

Prepare. Respond. Recover.

### **Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee**

- The hospitals recently participated in a “Communication Coordination” drill with Public Health Seattle and King County. These efforts will help streamline immediate notification of health events throughout health agency personnel.
- Preparations for participation in SoundShake (March 5, 2008) are under way. Design teams for healthcare will begin to convene in early January.

### **Mental Health**

- The King County Healthcare Coalition Methadone Preparedness Workgroup held its first meeting in November at Evergreen Treatment Services. The purpose of the workgroup was to bring together key stakeholders involved in methadone treatment for opioid dependence in order to begin identifying ways we can work together to better ensure continuity of care during emergencies for those enrolled in an Opioid Treatment Program, and development of a method for responding to community members who experience opiate withdrawal related to a community-wide emergency, yet are not enrolled in a treatment program.
- The kickoff meeting was a big success with representatives in attendance from the Dept. of Health & Human Services, Department of Alcohol & Substance Abuse, Board of Pharmacy, DEA, Veterans Administration, and Public Health - Seattle & King County Needle Exchange and Jail Health programs, as well as all OTP providers in King County. We thank all who participated and look forward to continuing this work in 2008!

### **Regional Medical Resource Center (RMRC)**

- The Healthcare Coalition incident management software, KCHHealthTrac, will be introduced to hospitals during a January Train-the-Trainer session. Additional healthcare sectors will receive training and access to the system throughout 2008.
- Preparations for the March 5th Sound Shake exercise are underway with many new RMRC operational documents under development.
- Two vendor interdependency surveys were distributed to King County hospitals during November and results should be made available to hospitals in early 2008. The next two surveys will be distributed in early January. These surveys are designed to explore how many facilities may be relying on the same vendors for the same services. Having this information will arm the healthcare organizations with comprehensive information during contract negotiations and will help them assess the need for backup contracts.

### **Puget Sound Call Center Coordination Project**

- WithinReach, a non profit organization which runs four statewide health and information referral hotlines, has joined as a partner in the call center project.
- The RFP for King County's hosted call routing system has been scheduled to go out for bid this month (December). When a vendor is selected, this system will serve as the initial hub for regional call center connectivity.
- AHRQ recently published recommendations on call center coordination during a public health emergency. The Puget Sound area has been recognized by CDC as a leader in the building of partnerships with hospitals, health care organizations, businesses and non-profits.

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## Training Opportunities

*Note: The following list of available training opportunities are provided for your interest. Making each opportunity known as available is not necessarily an endorsement as to the value of each training.*

### **KCHealthTrac Train the Trainer**

January 15 and 16, two 4-hour sessions

Location: Northwest Kidney Center

Cost: No Cost

Target Audience: Region 6 Hospitals,  
KCHealthTrac Facility Administrators &  
Trainers

For More Information: Contact Allison  
Schletzbaum at [aschletz@u.washington.edu](mailto:aschletz@u.washington.edu) or (206) 744-6213



### **REAC/TS Radiation Emergency Medicine**

2008 Dates: Jan 29 – Feb 1; March 4-7; April 15-18; June 3-6; Sept 9-12

Location: Oak Ridge, TN

Cost: \$125 + travel

This 3 1/2-day course is intended for physicians, nurses, clinical nurse practitioners, and physicians' assistants who may provide emergency medical care following a radiological or nuclear incident.

To register, or for more information, visit:

<http://orise.orau.gov/reacts/course-rem.htm>

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## Upcoming Conferences

*Note: The following list of available conference opportunities are provided for your interest. Making each opportunity known as available is not necessarily an endorsement as to the value of each conference.*

### **6th Annual Alaska Hospital Preparedness Conference**

January 28-30, 2008

Location: Anchorage, AL

For more information please visit:

[https://www.sporg.com/pom/registration?cmd=event\\_info&event\\_id=97774](https://www.sporg.com/pom/registration?cmd=event_info&event_id=97774)

### **International Disaster Management Conference**

January 31-February 3, 2008

Location: Orlando, FL

For more information please visit:

<http://www.emlrc.org/disaster2008.htm>

### **2008 West Region EMS Conference**

February 22-24, 2008

Location: Ocean Shores, WA

For more information please visit:

<https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?eventid=162580>



### **Partners in Preparedness**

April 1-2, 2008

Location: Tacoma Convention Center

For more information, visit:

<http://capps.wsu.edu/conferences/emergencyprep/>



### **National Earthquake Conference**

April 23 – 26, 2008

Location: Westin Hotel, Seattle

For More Information, visit:



<http://capps.wsu.edu/conferences/earthquake/>

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## Upcoming Exercises

### **MCI Tabletop Exercises**

**Date:** January 7 and January 9, 2008

Two 4-hour sessions will examine regional MCI plan and identify gaps in current plans and capabilities. Target audience includes ALS providers, Fire, Law Enforcement, Trauma Coordinators from designated hospital control hospitals, private ambulance companies, emergency management and public safety communications.

For More Information, contact: Mark Anderson at

[msanderson@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:msanderson@bellevuewa.gov)

### **Mass Fatalities Tabletop Exercise**

**Date:** **January 10, 2008**

Public Health and the King County Medical Examiner's Office will be hosting a pandemic flu mass fatality management tabletop exercise on October 25. This tabletop will bring together multiple disciplines, including funeral directors, public health, healthcare, vital statistics and first responders to look at issues related to managing a large number of deaths that could occur from a pandemic influenza outbreak.

### **Sound Shake 2008**

**Date:** **March 5, 2008**

The Seattle UASI area (comprised of King, Pierce, Snohomish Counties, City of Seattle and City of Bellevue) obtained a grant to develop and execute a Seattle Fault Catastrophic Earthquake exercise. It will be a tri-county, functional exercise. For more information about the exercise, please visit:

<http://www.metrokc.gov/prepare/SoundShake08.aspx>

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## About this Newsletter..

This publication will be sent monthly via email. Please feel free to share resources through this newsletter. To subscribe or to submit information to share, please contact Lydia Ortega at [Lydia.Ortega@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Lydia.Ortega@kingcounty.gov)

Thank you!

**Wishing you a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!**

